Rotman

A QUICK INTRO TO R

R Workshop (M/E MBA)

July 20, 2021 Prepared by Jay Cao / TDMDAL

Website: https://tdmdal.github.io/r-workshop-2021-memba/

Rotman School of Management
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Goal for Today – Answer Three Questions

- What's R?
- What can I use R for?
- How to learn R (on my own)?

Plan for Today

- Intro to Intro
  - What is R and what can R do?
  - Setup R
  - Motivation examples
- How to learn R and a quick walk-through
  - Basics of R programming
  - Data science with R
- Learning Road Map and Resources

What's R?

+

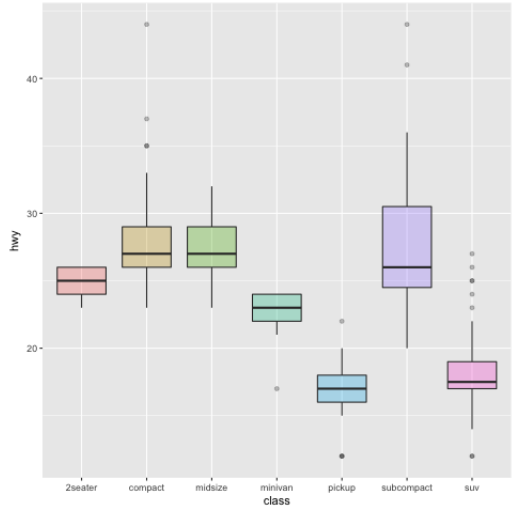
- R = a language + an eco-system
  - A free and open-source programming language
  - An eco-system of many high-quality user-contributed libraries/packages
- In the past R is mostly known for its statistical analysis toolkits
- Nowadays R is capable of (and very good at) many other tasks
  - Tools that cover the whole data analysis workflow
  - Tools for web technology…

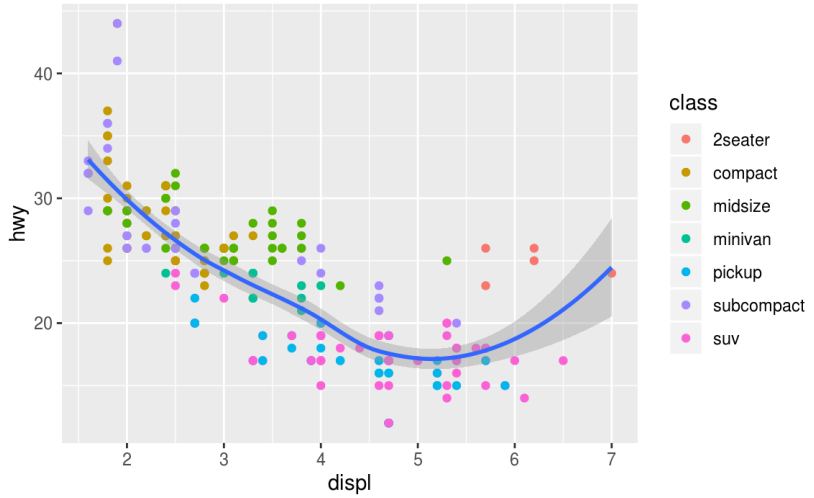
What can R do – Statistics & related

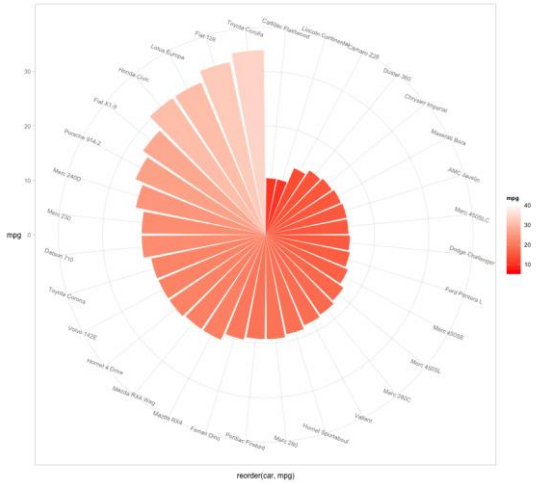
- Statistics & Econometrics
  - Regressions
  - Time series analysis
  - Bayesian inference
  - Survival analysis
  - …
- Numerical Mathematics
  - Optimization
  - Solver
  - Differential equations
  - …
- Finance
  - Portfolio management
  - Risk management
  - Option pricing
  - …
- …

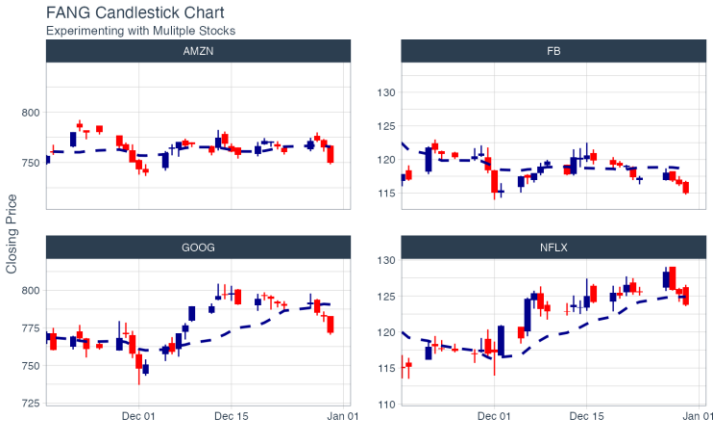
See more R Empirical Finance Packages on R Task View - Finance

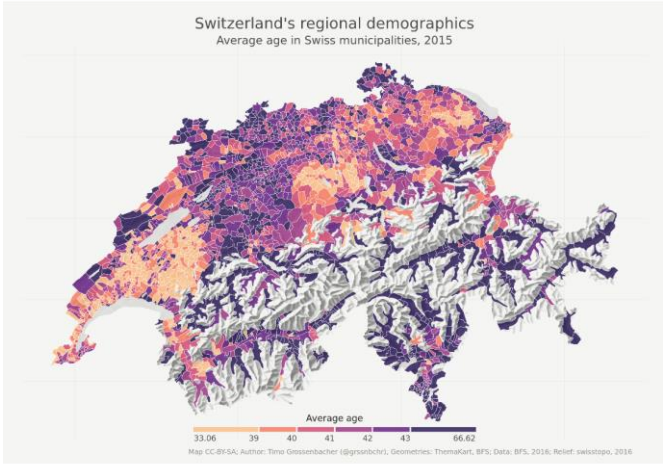
What can R do – Graphics (static ones)

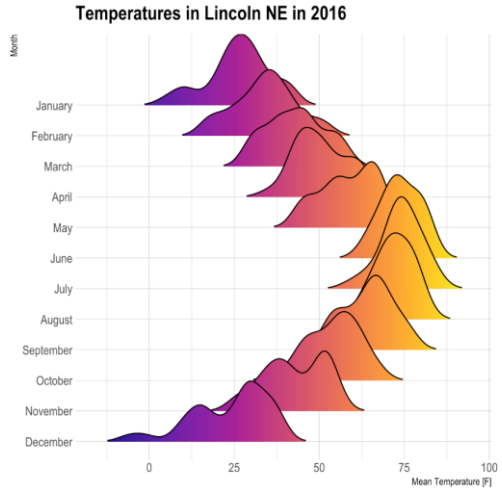








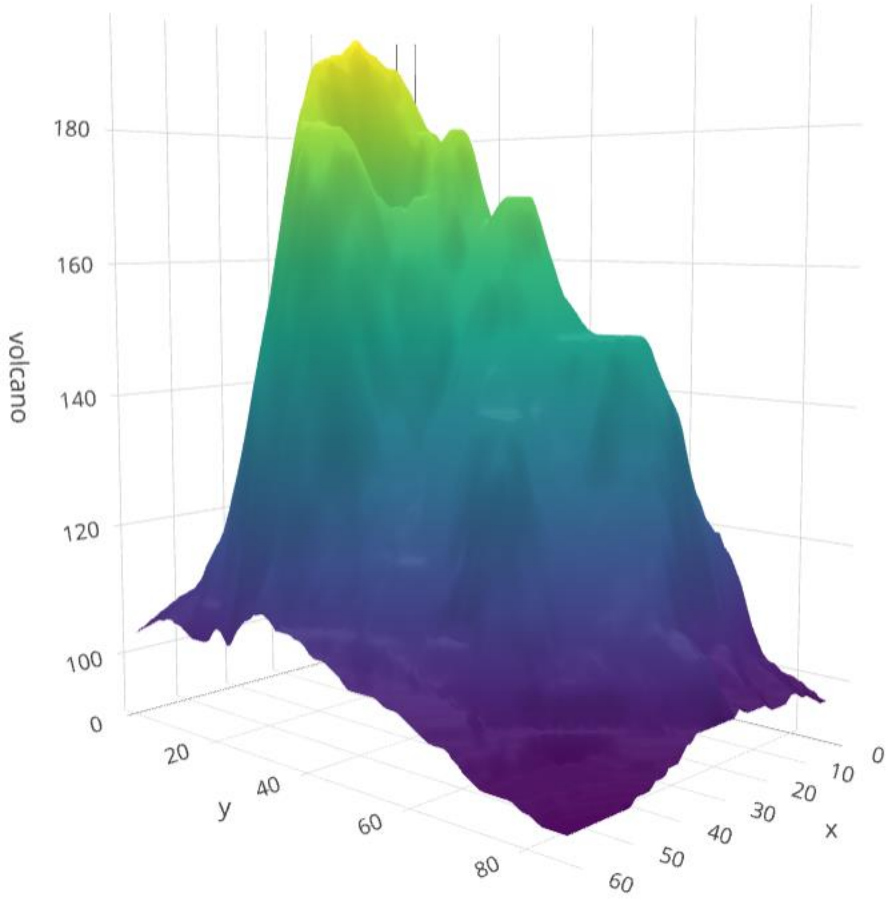


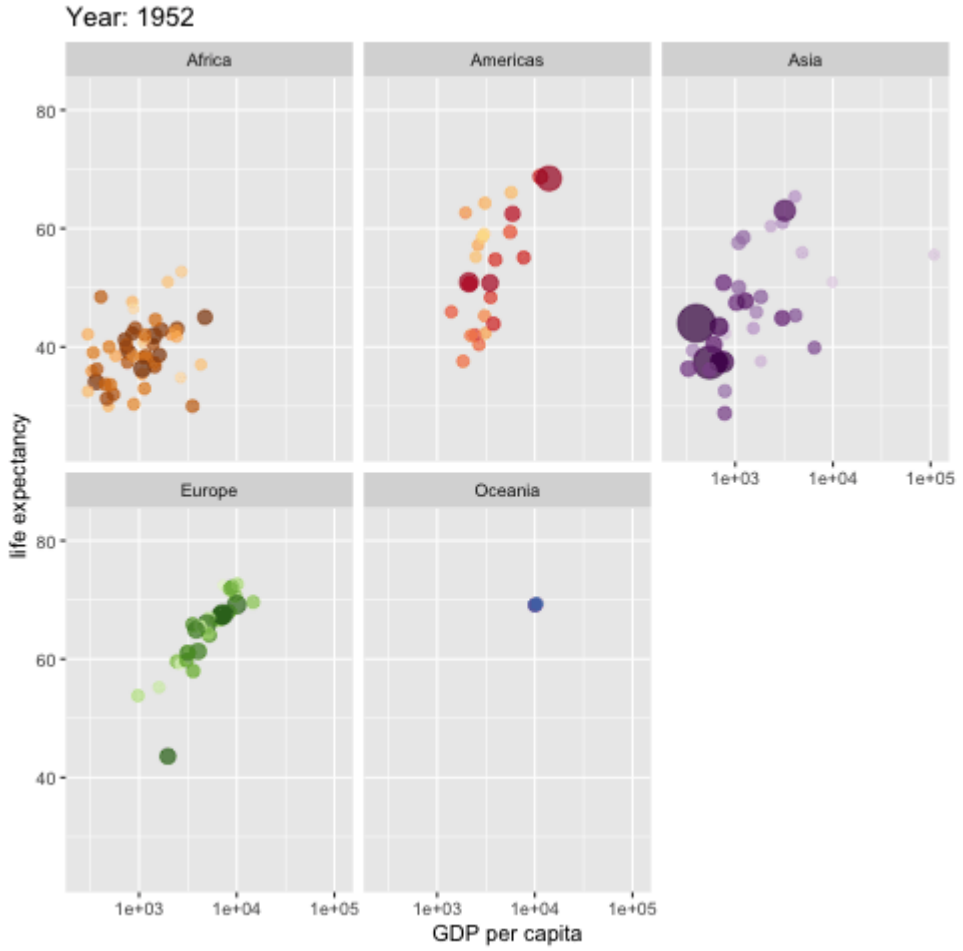


...

https://www.r-graph-gallery.com/
https://timogrossenbacher.ch/2016/12/beautiful-thematic-maps-with-ggplot2-only/;

What can R do – Graphics (dynamic ones)

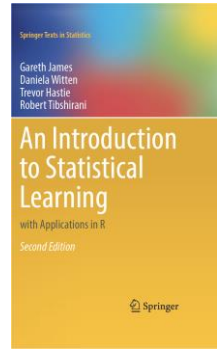




https://plot.ly/r/3d-surface-plots/;

https://github.com/thomasp85/gganimate;

What can R do – Others (1)



- Machine learning
  - Statistical learning (clustering, decision tree, etc.)
    - An Introduction to Statistical Learning (with Applications in R)
  - Deep learning (neural networks)
    - Interface to Keras and Tensorflow (via reticulate, an R to Python interface)
    - Torch for R (natively from R; similar as PyTorch in Python)

- Natural language processing (e.g., tidytext, topicmodels)

1. See more R Machine Learning Packages on R Task View - ML & Statistical Learning
2. See more R Natural Language Processing Packages on R Task View - NLP

What can R do – Others (2)

- Web technology
  - Web scraping (e.g. rvest)
  - API wrapper (e.g. Twitter: rtweet; bigquery: bigrquery; Quandl: Quandl)
  - Shiny web app (https://shiny.rstudio.com/)

- Reporting
  - R Markdown (write reports, slides, blogs, books, etc. See a gallery here.)

- … (see **R Task View** for more)

R vs Excel and BI Tools vs Python

- Excel & Business Intelligence (BI) Tools (e.g., Tableau, Power BI, etc.)
  - 2-D tables as basic data structure
  - Good UI (User Interface) and minimum programming
  - Limited modeling tools
  - Not easy to reproduce an analysis (because it's hard to store UI clicks)
  - Not flexible enough for complicated analysis problems, i.e., problems with
    - Many data cleaning steps/pipelines
    - Many different models to try

- Python
  - Very similar to R, but R is more specialized in data analysis
  - R is much easier to learn (in my opinion)

Why learn R (What can R do **for You**)?

- Beyond Excel Data Analysis
  - I wish Excel could…
- Automate boring repeating tasks
  - e.g., daily data collection from different sources, weekly dashboard update
- Prototype ideas
  - e.g., a novel trading strategy, a new credit risk model
- Really, find anything that interests you and use R…

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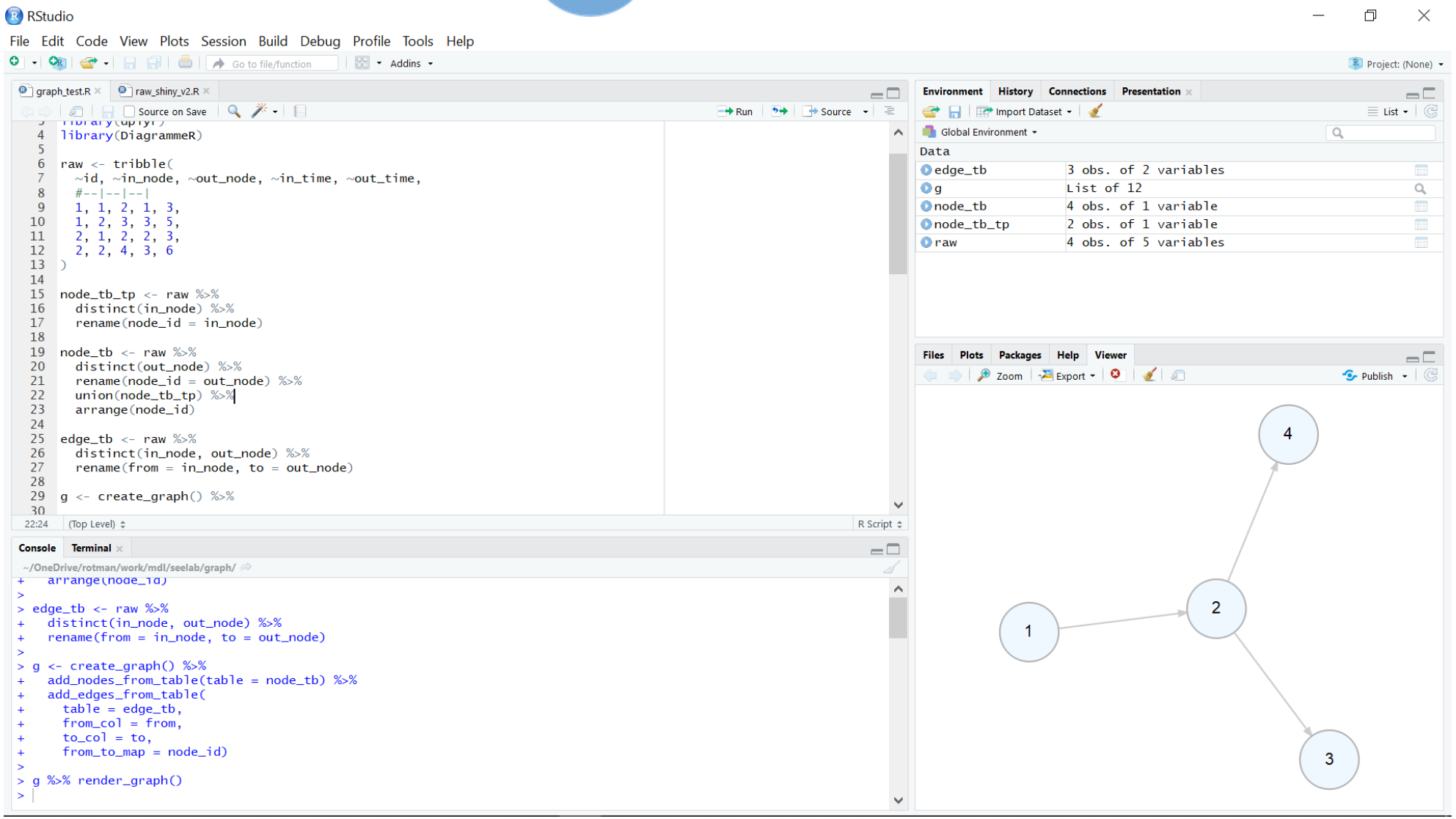
Setup R

- R & RStudio on your computer (most of you should choose this one)
  - Install R (https://www.r-project.org/)
  - Install RStudio (https://rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/)

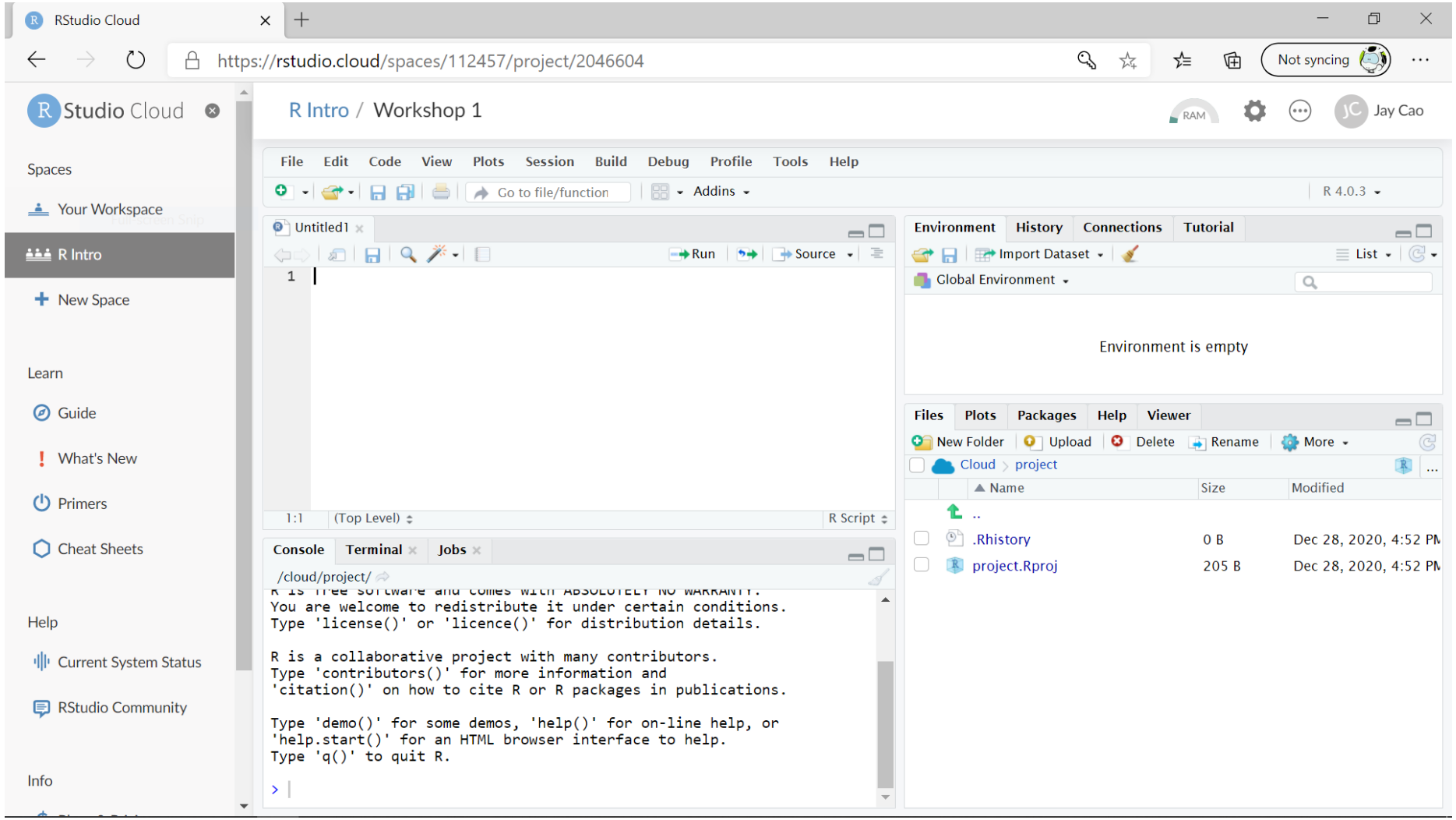
- R & RStudio in the Cloud (run R without installation)
  - RStudio Cloud (https://rstudio.cloud/)
  - UofT JupyterHub RStudio (https://jupyter.utoronto.ca/hub/login)

- R & **Notebook** in the Cloud (run R without installation)
  - UofT JupyterHub Notebook (https://jupyter.utoronto.ca/hub/login)
  - Google Colab (https://colab.to/r)

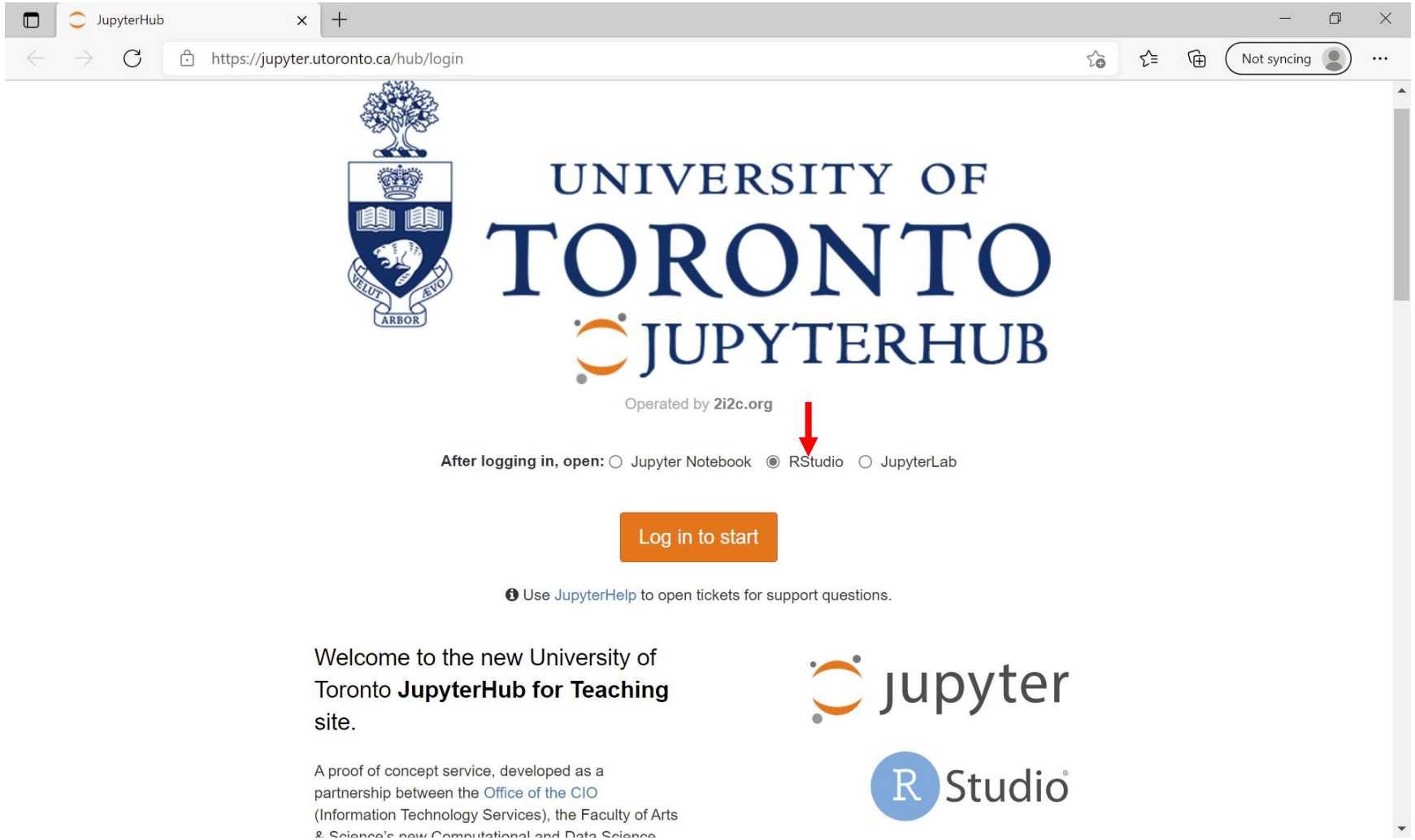
What's RStudio?



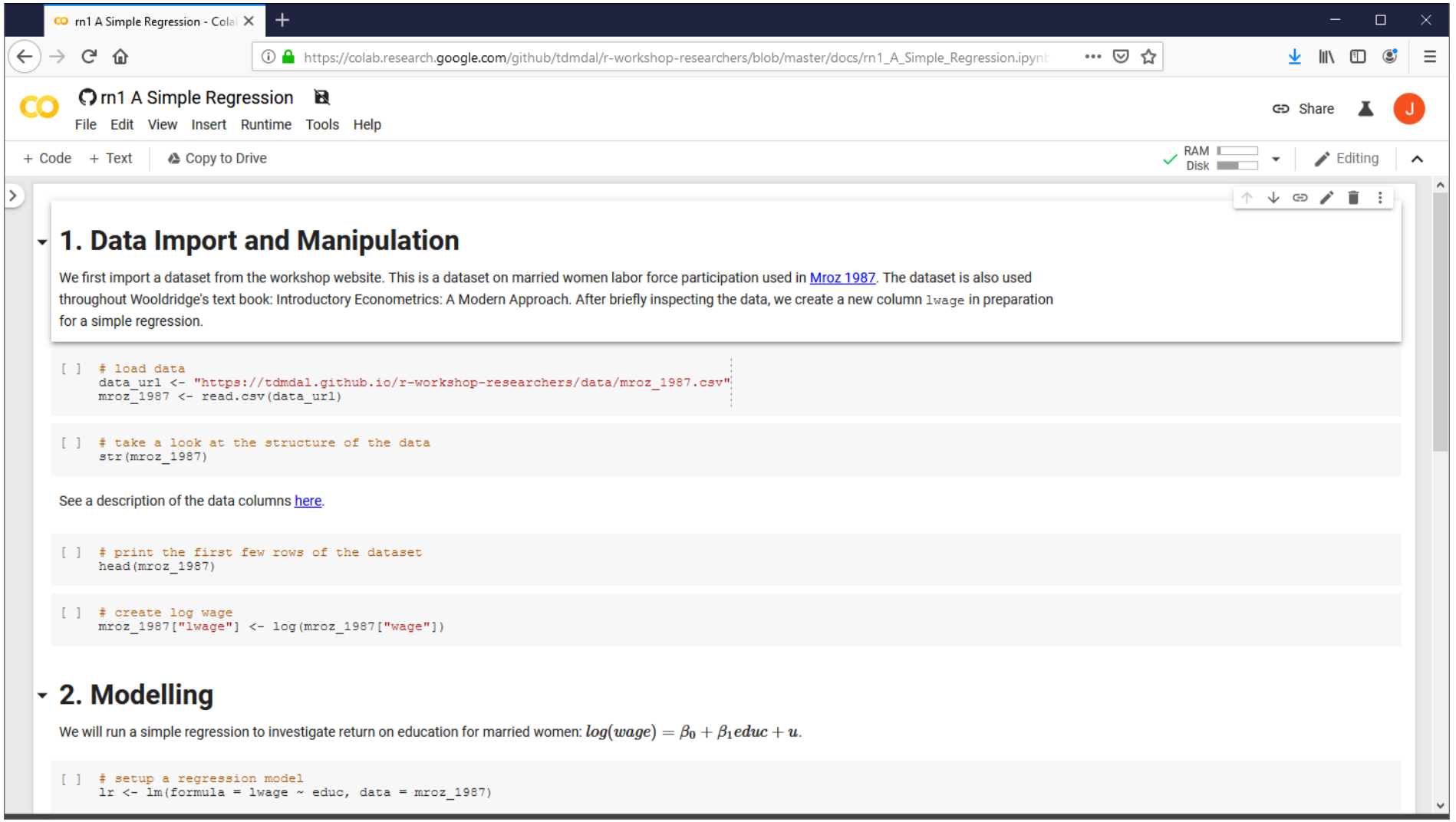
RStudio Cloud



RStudio at UofT Jupyterhub



R Notebook in Google Colab



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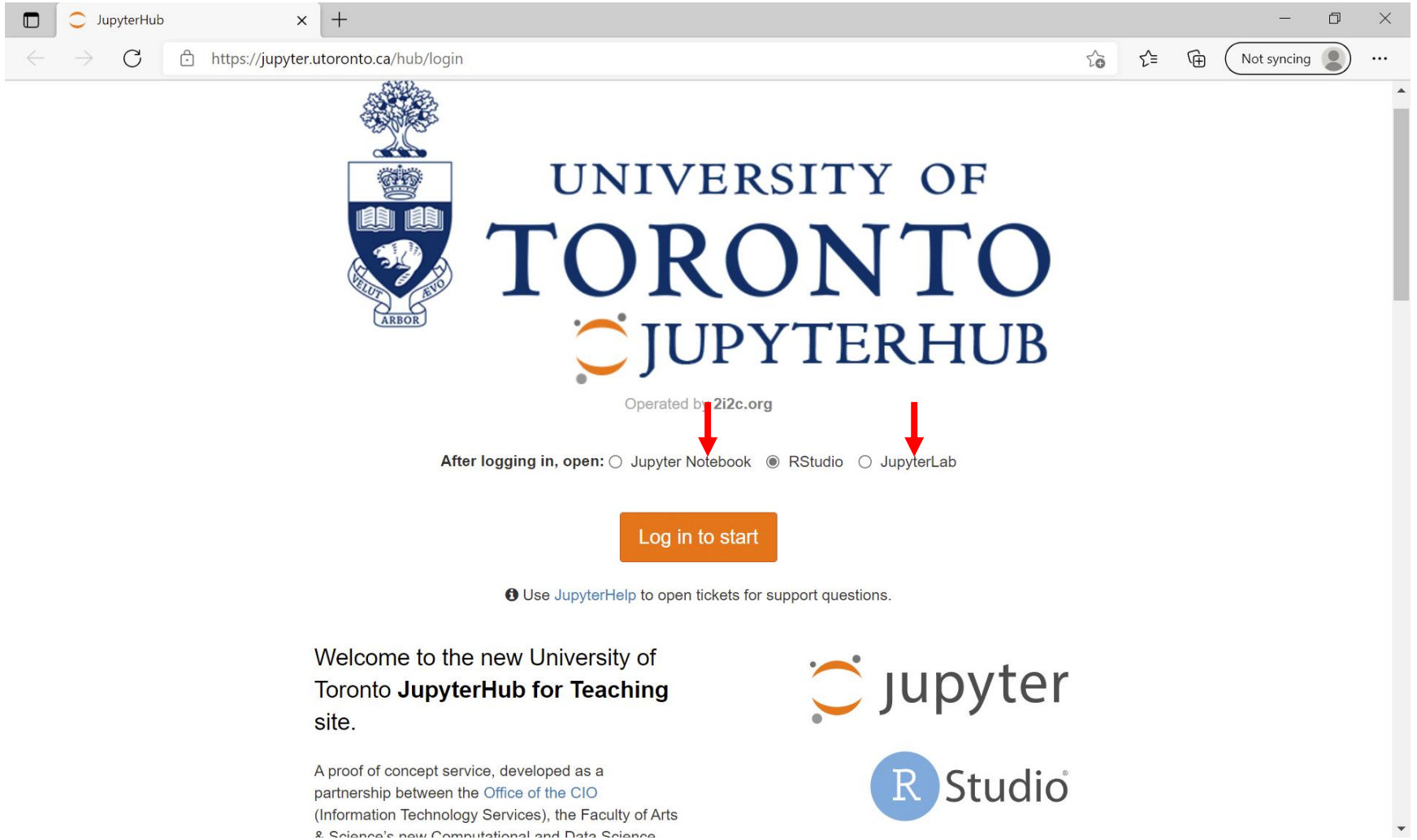

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A Few Examples

- Analyze portfolio performance
- Look for trends in R community through Twitter
- Recognize handwritten digits - an example of deep learning

PerformanceAnalytics Package

A Few Examples: What to Look For

- Focus on analysis workflow (by reading the code comments)
  - Import and manipulate data
  - Model data
  - Report and visualize results
- Don’t focus on R syntax
- Do notice everything is done in a sequential way
  - no conditional branching or looping

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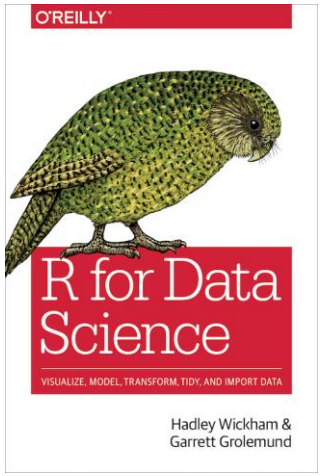
How to Learn R

- Step 1. Basics of R programming
  - Data and programing structures (learn R syntax; relatively easy)
  - How to turn ideas into code (hard; takes time and practice)



- Step 2. Data Science with R
  - Data wrangling
  - Modeling
  - Reporting and visualization
- A Good Learning Approach
  - Learn underlying principles (e.g., why organize data in a certain way)
  - Learn best practices (e.g., follow a consistent analysis workflow)

Free books: Hands-On Programming with R; R for Data Science

Plan for Today

- Intro to Intro

- How to learn R and a quick walk-through
  - Basics of R programming
    - Expression & Assignment
    - Data Structure
    - Programming Structure (control flow & function)
    - Turn ideas into code
  - Data science with R

- Learning Road Map and Resources

Expression and Assignment

```
# expression
2 + sqrt(4) + log(exp(2)) + 2^2


# assignment
x <- 3
y <- (pi == 3.14)
```

R Data Structure - Overview

	Homogeneous	Heterogeneous
1-d	**Atomic vector**	**List**
2-d	Matrix	**Data frame**
n-d	Array	

http://adv-r.had.co.nz/Data-structures.html

R Data Structure - Overview

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Atomic Vectors

```
# create R vectors
vec_character <- c("Hello,", "World!")

vec_integer <- c(1L, 2L, 3L)

vec_double <- c(1.1, 2.2, 3.3)

vec_logical <- c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE)
```

Hello,	World!

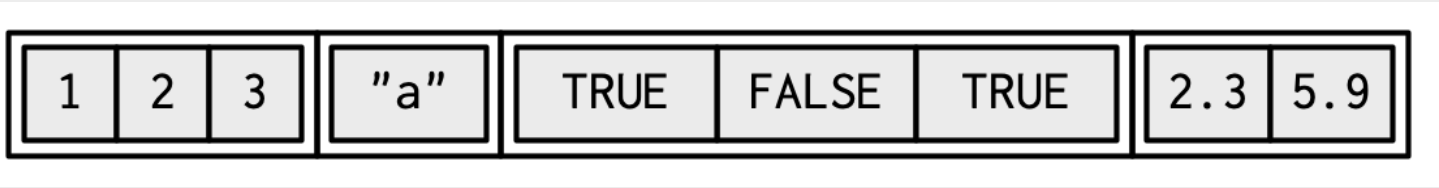
1	2	3

1.1	2.2	3.3

TRUE	TRUE	FALSE

List

```
# create an R list
l1 <- list(
  1:3,
  "a",
  c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE),
  c(2.3, 5.9)
)
```



ref. https://adv-r.hadley.nz/vectors-chap.html#list-creating

Data Frame

```
# create a data frame
df1 <- data.frame(
  x = 1:3,
  y = letters[1:3],
  z = c(1.1, 2.2, 3.3)
)
```

x	y	z
1	"a"	1.1
2	"b"	2.2
3	"c"	3.3

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```

x	y	z
1	"a"	1.1
2	"b"	2.2
3	"c"	3.3

A Cousin to Data Frame - Tibble

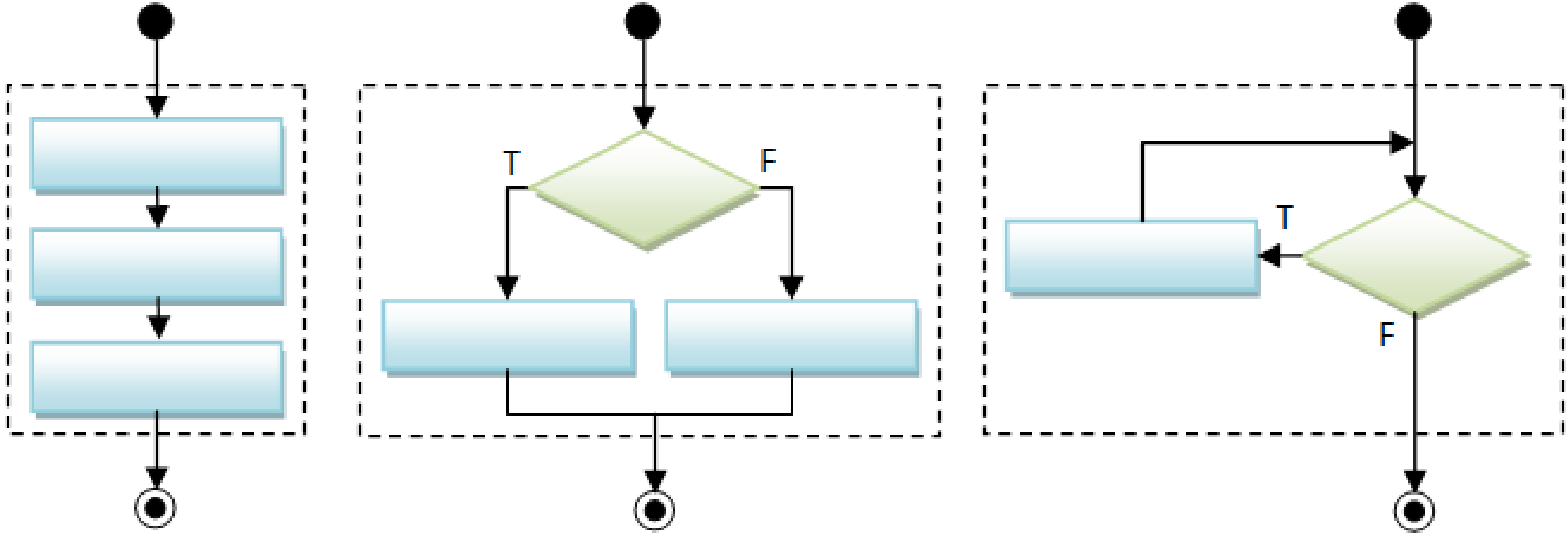
```
# load tibble library (part of tidyverse lib)
library(tibble)

# create a tibble
tb1 <- tibble(
  x = 1:3,
  y = letters[1:3],
  z = c(1.1, 2.2, 3.3)
)
```

x	y	z
1	"a"	1.1
2	"b"	2.2
3	"c"	3.3

https://r4ds.had.co.nz/tibbles.html#tibbles-vs.data.frame

Programming Structure: Control Flows



Sequential | Conditional (Decision) | Loop (Iteration)

Today

Learn yourself later (See Appendix)

Sequential

- Example: Sum of Squares

$$\sum_{t=1}^{3} t^2$$

```
# sum of squares
t <- 1:3
y <- sum(t^2)
print(y)
```

Sequential

- Example: Sum of Squares

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t	1	2	3

Sequential

- Example: Sum of Squares

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```
# sum of squares
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y <- sum(t^2)
print(y)
```

t	1	2	3
t^2	1	4	9
sum(t^2)	14		

Programming Structure: Functions

- What's a function
  - a logical block of code
  - input -> output
- Why write functions
  - Reusability
  - Abstraction
  - Maintainability
- Example: $\sum_{t=1}^{n} t^2$

```
# sum of squares from 1 to n
ss <- function(n) {
  t <- 1:n
  sum(t^2)
}

# calling the ss() function
print(ss(2))
print(ss(3))
```

Programming Structure: Functions

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Programming Structure: Functions

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```
# sum of squares from 1 to n
ss <- function(n) {
  t <- 1:n
  sum(t^2)  # return(sum(t^2))
}

# calling the ss() function
print(ss(2))
print(ss(3))
```

Turn Ideas into Code

- Solve problems using code: three main ingredients
  - Data & Programming Structure + **Algorithm** (sorting, searching, optimization, etc.)

- Examples
  - Sort a list of integers
  - Generate and solve Sudoku puzzles
  - Implement and backtest a trading rule/algorithm

- For us, in most cases, we solve problems by
  - using other people's algorithm implementations (functions from R packages)
  - Combine algorithms (and data & programming structures) to achieve our goal (still not easy; need practices to write good code.)

Plan for Today

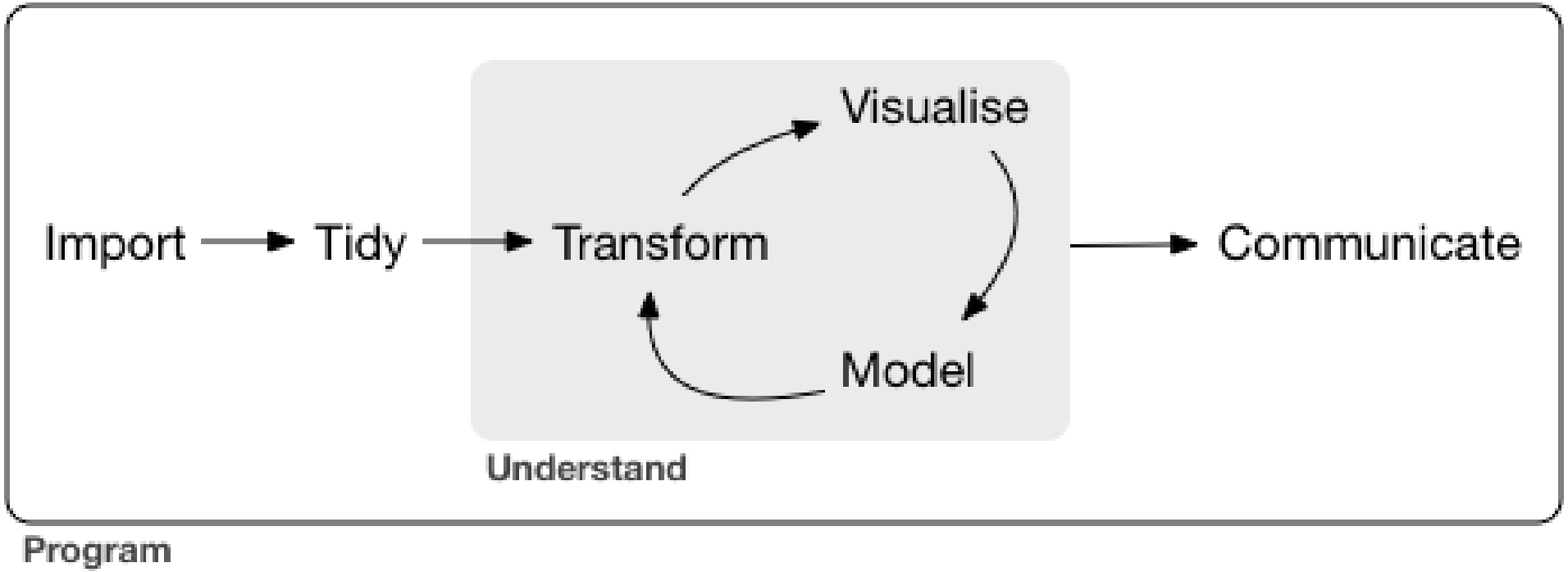
- Intro to Intro

- How to learn R and a quick walk-through
  - Basics of R programming
  - Data science with R
    - A Typical data analysis workflow
    - Choice of R packages
    - An example: regression analysis

- Learning Road Map and Resources

Data Science/Analysis Workflow

- Use this workflow to organize your thoughts and code



https://r4ds.had.co.nz/introduction.html

An Example: Housing Price & Clean Air

- Manipulate data
  - Load data
  - Create new columns
  - Filter columns and rows
- Build models
  - Multiple linear regressions
- Report and graph
  - Build a publication-ready table for regression results

```
Obs:   506

1. price      median housing price, $
2. crime      crimes committed per capita
3. nox        nitrous oxide, parts per 100 mill.
4. rooms      avg number of rooms per house
5. dist       weighted dist. to 5 employ centers
6. radial     accessibiliy index to radial hghwys
7. proptax    property tax per $1000
8. stratio    average student-teacher ratio
9. lowstat    % of people 'lower status'
```

R Packages: Many choices, which one to use

- Often, a task can be achieved using functions in different libraries
  - R is open and extensible!

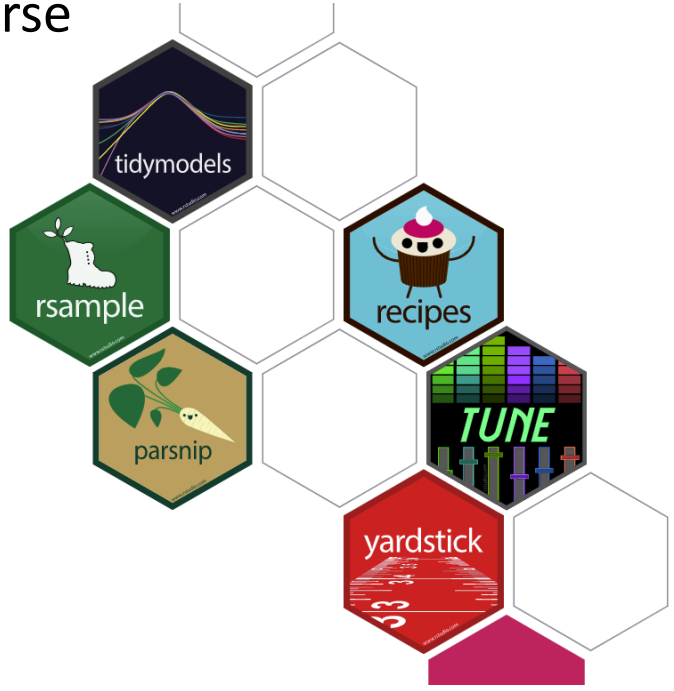
- Example: load a csv file to a data frame
  - Use `read.csv()` function from the `utils` library in Base R
  - Use `read_csv()` function from the `readr` library
  - Use `fread()` function from the `data.table` library
  - Use `vroom()` from the `vroom` library

R Packages: Many choices, which one to use

- Start with the one most people use
- Choose one that is well maintained
  - check document, github, etc. for last update date
  - packages maintained by companies (e.g., RStudio Co.) or academic teams
- Choose one that suits your task

Great Choice for Data Science Work

- Tidyverse
  - "an opinionated collection of R packages designed for data science"
  - "All packages share an underlying design philosophy, grammar, and data structures."
  - Handle data manipulation, visualization, and much more
  - an eco-system: many package developers started to follow tidyverse principles too



- Tidymodels
  - "a collection of packages for modeling and machine learning using tidyverse principles"
  - Manage modeling process but does not do modeling itself

Our Choice: the Regression Example

- Manipulate data (`tidyverse` eco-system)
  - Load data (`read_csv()` from the `readr`)
  - Create new columns (`mutate()` from `dplyr`)
  - Filter columns and rows (`select()` and `filter()` from `dplyr`)
- Build models
  - Multiple regression (`lm()` from `stats` library in R base)
- Report and graph
  - Build a publication-ready table (`huxreg()` from `huxtable` library)

Using R packages/libraries

- Install an R library (only need to install a library once)

```
install.packages("library_name")
```

- Load an R library (before you use a library)

```
library(library_name)
```

- CRAN (The Comprehensive R Archive Network)
  - CRAN Task Views

Load a CSV file

- `read_csv()` from the `readr`

```
read_csv(file)
```

```
e.g. hprice <- read_csv("hprice.csv")
```

- More about `read_csv()`
- More about `readr`

Data Manipulation: dplyr basics

- Filter observations (rows): **filter()**

filter(my_dataframe, condition1, …)

```
e.g., hprice_reg <- filter(hprice, price > 20000)
```

- Select variables (columns): **select()**

mutate(my_dataframe, new_var1 = *expression1*, …)

```
e.g., hprice_reg <- mutate(hprice_reg, lprice = log(price))
```

- Create new variables: **mutate()**

select(my_dataframe, var1, …)

```
e.g., hprice_reg <- select(hprice_reg, lprice, rooms)
```

Data Manipulation: Data Pipe (%>%)

```
hprice_reg <- filter(hprice, price > 20000)
hprice_reg <- mutate(hprice_reg, lprice = log(price))
hprice_reg <- select(hprice_reg, lprice, rooms)
```

```
hprice_reg <- hprice %>%
  filter(price > 20000) %>%
  mutate(lprice = log(price)) %>%
  select(lprice, rooms)
```

Regression

- Multiple regressions: `lm()` from `stats` library in base R

```
my_model <- lm(y ~ x1 + x2, data)
```

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \epsilon_i$$

```
my_model <- lm(y ~ x1 + x2 + I(x1 * x2), data)
```

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_1 X_2 + \epsilon_i$$

- Regression result summary: `summary()`

Ref. https://faculty.chicagobooth.edu/richard.hahn/teaching/FormulaNotation.pdf

Report

- Summary table
  - Summary for lm(): `summary(my_model)`

- publication-ready table: `huxreg()` from `huxtable` library

```
huxtable(my_model1, my_model2, …)
```

Ref. https://hughjonesd.github.io/huxtable/huxreg.html

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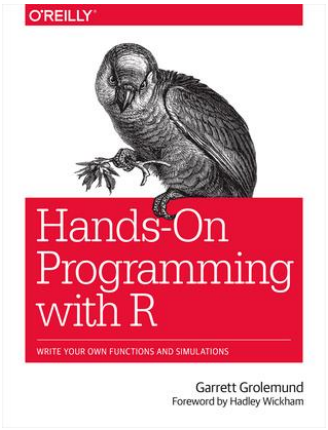
Learning Road Map (Three Free Books)

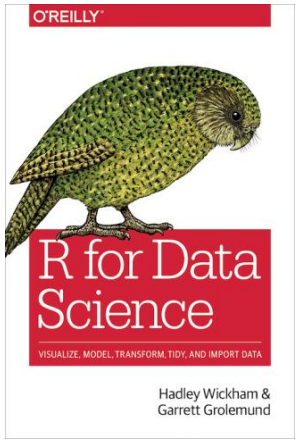
- Step 1. Basic R programming skills (Never programmed before? Start here.)
  - Data and programming structure; how to turn an idea into code;
  - Book: Hands-On Programming with R

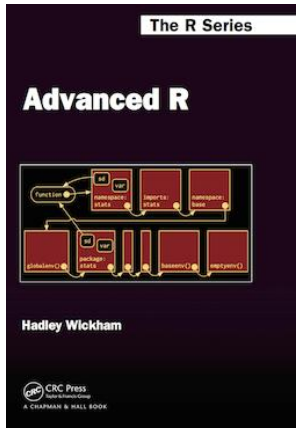
- Step 2. R Data Science skills
  - Data wrangling, modeling, and visualization/reporting; Best practice;
  - Book: R for Data Science

- Step 3. Take your R Skill to the next level
  - Book: Advanced R

Other free books check bookdown.org often







Free Learning Resource

- RStudio Education
  - Choose Your Learning Paths
- RStudio Video Resources Site
- More free R books? Check bookdown.org often
- Coursera: Search R and learn
  - free for UofT students (mostly always free if you just audit the courses)
- Twitter (a few seeds: #rstat, @hadleywickham, @WeAreRLadies)

Appendix

- Programming Structure Continued
  - Conditional
  - Iteration

Conditional (if…else…)

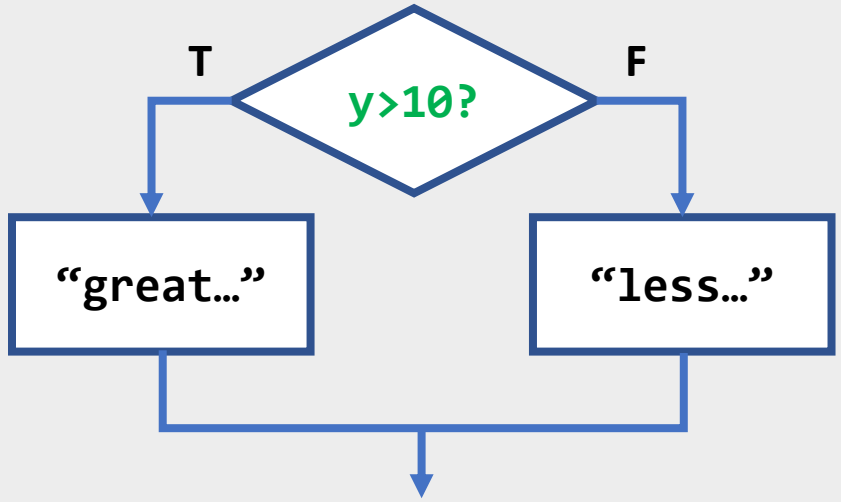
```
if (cond) {
  # run here if cond is TRUE
} else {
  # run here if cond is FALSE
}
```

```
# y greater than 10?
if (y > 10) {
  print("greater than 10")
} else {
  print("less or equal to 10")
}
```

Conditional (if…else…)

```
if (cond) {
  # run here if cond is TRUE
} else {
  # run here if cond is FALSE
}
```

```
# y greater than 10?
if (y > 10) {
  print("greater than 10")
} else {
  print("less or equal to 10")
}
```



Conditional (if…else if…else…)

```
if (cond1) {
  # run here if cond1 is TRUE
} else if (cond2) {
  # run here if cond1 is FALSE but cond2 is TRUE
} else {
  # run here if neither cond1 nor cond2 is TRUE
}
```

Iteration

```
for (var in seq) {
  do something
}

while (cond) {
  do something if cond is TRUE
}
```

```
# sum of squares
t <- 1:3
y <- 0

for (x in t) {
  y <- y + x^2
}

print(y)
```